

PATENT APPLICATION

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 2831**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Kenji SAMOTO

Group Art Unit: 2831

Application No.: 10/669,687

Examiner: J. LEE

Filed: September 25, 2003

Docket No.: 117213

For: FLEXIBLE CABLE HARNESS AND IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION AFTER FINAL REJECTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the August 28, 2006 Office Action, the period for reply extended by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-15, 19 and 20 are pending.

Restriction was asserted and claims 1-8, 19 and 20 were elected. Contrary to the Office Action, Applicant is not required to cancel non-elected claims 9-15. Claims 1 and 2 remain generic to claims 9-15. Accordingly, when claims 1 and 2 are allowed, claims 9-15 would also be allowed, thus rendering a divisional application based on claim 9-15 unnecessary. Applicant thus requests rejoinder of claims 9-15 when claims 1 and 2 are allowed.

Claims 1-6, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP-U-6-21949 (JP'949). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

JP'949 fails to disclose a flexible cable harness with a plurality of flexible cables that each include a first positioning system and a second positioning system added to the curved portion, as recited in claims 1 and 19. By using a plurality of flexible cables that each include the added first and second positioning systems of claims 1 and 19, manufacturing various flexible cables is simplified, production costs are reduced and positioning fluctuations are minimized (paragraphs [0036] - [0038] of Applicant's specification, for example).

JP'949 fails to disclose or suggest a first or second positioning system that is added to each of the plurality of flexible cables and JP'949 cannot achieve the advantages that result from the first or second positioning system.

JP'949 discloses a flexible cable harness with cables 13-17 that are pressed by a cable presser-foot plate 29 (identified as a first positioning part) at a first end and by a lateral surface of the carriage 7 at a second end, with the cables 13-17 inserted into splicers 21, 23 (identified as a second positioning part) (paragraph [0004] of translation). Page 2 of the Office Action identifies "unnumbered on the cables at 29 for example" and "unnumbered on the cables at 21, 23 for example" as a first positioning system and a second positioning system. JP'949 fails to disclose any structure or positioning system that is "on" the cables 13-17 at 21, 23, and 29. JP'949 simply discloses cables.

Page 3 of the Office Action continues by arguing that added first and second positioning systems would have been obvious. Applicant disagrees because, as discussed above and during the June 1, 2006 personal interview, JP'949 fails to disclose any structure or positioning system that is "on" the cables 13-17. Accordingly, it would not have been obvious to add structure that does not exist. Furthermore, by failing to disclose any structure (i.e., first and second positioning systems of claims 1 and 19) that is "on" the cables 13-17 or could be added to the cables 13-17, JP'949 fails to achieve the advantages identified in paragraphs [0036] - [0038] of Applicant's specification, for example.

It is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over JP'949 in view of Serizawa et al. (Serizawa), U.S. Patent No. 6,257,898. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Serizawa fails to overcome the deficiencies of JP'949 in disclosing a first positioning system and a second positioning system added for each of a plurality of flexible cables, as recited in claim 1. It is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO:SMS/sxb

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: December 28, 2006

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